End of Edith Lange Collection

Start of Mathilde Schechter Collection

AR 11454

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LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 11454 I/1 Mathilde Schechter Collection, undated, 1911-1924

GRAND HOTEL CAVOUR
FLORENCE

Thursday morning.

Dearest,

Here are the letter and card that arrived this morning. I have accompanied you with my thoughts, and I hoped you could sleep in that packed compartment. Dearest, it has been beautiful, — and I shall ever treasure this memory of the past three weeks! Welcome at home and Good Shabbath! Love to you and the girls and your Boy and your new Boy, dear "Bother-in-law.

With a big sob in my throat and a smile on my face — I say Good-bye and God bless you and yours! and a thousand thanks for all your sweet love and thoughtful consideration!

Ever yours
Mathilde.

Lottie, you sunny child, don't forget me and love me a little, Auntie?
Mathilde.

468 Riverside Drive November 28th 1911.

My Bertha Dearest,

Many happy returns of the Day! – for joy and gladness with your beloved Bruno! – I do not know whether you two can and will be together on your birthday, but I do wish that you may be in fifty years to come the happiest couple still – working, living, loving, resting together, in true Darby & Joan fashion, or Bertha and Bruno way, as the future Germanists will say of you two. I am very interested in your doings, and I should dearly like to know more of it, but all I do know are tit-bits from my Marthele's brief letters.

2.

I have been absorbingly busy and harrassed ever since our return, else I should have proved a better correspondent. But tell your Darling Mother that I did see the Doctor, and that I obey orders now, as best I can, in this busiest of cities. – I also saw the dentist a number of times who screwed and grew into my old roots three such matchlessly matching teeth that I myself cannot tell the difference, nor anyone else for that matter & that they will never break nor ever be removed till doomsday. They are wonderful people, the good American dentists. You are a hundred years behind in this respect, and as much ahead of us in medecine. – Der liebe Alte and Frank and Amy are bonny and flourishing. Frank is intensely interested in the theoretical side of law, and he is a fine manly man and good to

his mother. He insists upon my walking out with him every day and he soon finds me out, if I am tired or not quite well. Amy, too, is developping nicely. She is going to Barnard College and enjoys her studies. At first she thought that she would take a fancy course, but Father insisted on the full regular course, and she sees now how right he was. She is doing splendid work and shows what a clever Kid she really is. She has her own dress-allowance now, and she is well dressed even for an American girl. She buys the best style and good cut at the most moderate price, makes her money go much further than anyone else's, does her hair neatly as the other College girls arrange theirs: the College girls here

With fondest love from us all – Your Mother's [illegible]

are the best-dressed young girls. All this life is good for Amy, also the concentrated work and the harmless fun. As she and Frank danced a great deal this summer, they enjoyed going to a Ball last week, whence they returned at 4 o'clock in the morning. To-morrow we have the national Holiday of Thanksgiving, which is the nicest and jolliest day in America, full of good cheer for everyone. May your and your Dear Ones' lives be like beautiful harmonies, like a cheery perpetual Thanksgiving for some or the other kind experience and of wondrous sweetness! We are living now on the shore of the Hudson River, and the sunrise and the sunset is mine again daily, and the boats passing by speak to me of reunion with you all one day and the thought makes me happy indeed. God give you a merry Birthday and a happy Year! —

deeper, nobler—with a touch of
Jewish sadness recognizable in
the eyes of our finest women.—
Marthel, you are very good and
very generous towards the children
but you will have to add to mere
goodness and to mere generosity
warm expression of your affection
towards Bruno, else you will make
Berthel suffer. She is as fine as the
pastel colouring of the morning dawn,
and I love her!—Once I begged my
husband to be more warm-hearted,
less resentful towards Alec, and
he said doggedly: "First the children
will have their own way and not
listen to us, and then I should
bend and only please them."—
That is a man's attitude.—
I miss my daughter just as much
or more, but her happiness comes
first and last, and we may not hurt
her where she is most sensitive: in her
lover-husband. In that relation you
may not hurt your Berthel—Marthele

HILLMANNS HOTEL
DIREKTION: H. VOLLMER

BREMEN, Sept. 11th. 1913.

Marthel Dearest.

Enclosed letter I found among
my letters, so I return it at once.
We had arrived here very tired out,
but after a night's rest and a good
bath we feel all right. Everything
about ticket, luggage etc. for the
steamer is arranged, the weather
is fine and all prospects are favou-
rable for a fair passage. We
found Ruth's & Alec's happy
letters here awaiting us, at the
office of the North German Lloyd.
And that brings my thoughts
again to Berthel and Bruno,
who came to see us off. They
look well—both of them. I find
that Berthel has gained in
sweetness and loveableness and
has grown a "Neshomoh" instead
of merely a soul. It is something

you dare not; it is a sin toward
the holy spirit of motherhood.
Do not for a moment imagine
that Bethel *said* anything,
but sharpened through my ex-
periences with Ruth, I *felt*
it. And you and I must for
ever be entirely frank with each
other, for the great love's sake
we bear for over forty years, a
love without change or faltering
a love that keeps and nestles close
to our hearts even at thousands
of miles' distance.

I thank you and kiss you for
each and every love-sign of our
last week's meetings and com-
panionship, and may God guard
you and your Beloved Children,
and may He grant us and our
friendship more occasions of
beautiful living and loving:

Yours ever +

Mathilde.

468 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

New York,
December 23rd 1915.

Meine geliebte Martha,

Gestern Abend hatte ich Deinen Geburtstagsbrief für uns beide und heute früh Deinen Trauerbrief für mich. - Tausend Dank für Deine Liebesworte, und so Gott will, nach dem Kriege kommst Du zum Besuch zu mir! - Danke Bertha und Luise Freyhan für die gütigen Worte. So viele treue Liebesworte für den Hingeschiedenen und für mich, die ich hier geduldig warten muss, bis wir wieder vereint sind. Die Kinder sind sehr lieb. Ich kann vorläufig nicht mehr schreiben, nur meine Segenswünsche für Lotte and the "little stranger from never-never-land," God bless them - and you - and all that is dear to you - for many years to come.

Mit Gruss und Kuss

Mathilde.

STA. J.

C

Frau Prof. Dr. Badt

1 Paradies-strasse

Breslau

Germany.

...landstelle
Frei-

468 Riverside Drive April 10th, 1924.

My darling Martha,

Good Yomtob! How are you? And my Berthel? and sunny Lotte? Where you will spend the Seder? Who will say Manish tanu? God bless them, whoever says it. Breslau or Berlin. I have been so busy, because of Ruth's coming. I wished to have done all my Pesach, with the exception of the very last. Now I am tired and finished. With my Kosher Ida, it is a joy how she worked like a blessed nigger. This is Thursday the 10th. You must forgive me, that I shall come towards the end of Pesach, but at any rate before the last days.

Saturday I expect Ruth. The "Eastern Glade" will then be just 4 weeks on the water. Her husband, Alexander, is good to let her come to me. It means 4 weeks here and 4 weeks back and 6 weeks with me, when the voyage is rapid. Thus 14 weeks, 3 1/2 months, altogether. I got Alec's letter, and Ruth already his first one and one from each child, which all four will await her on her arrival. Alec says the children were brave, but Dolly the bravest. When he could not stand it any longer he looked over the side of the ship and quietly broke down. I think that Ruth will have endless things to tell me. Amy sends me two most interesting letters. Harry her Harry became the head of the laboratory. But they do not yet pick up, it seems. I sent them a parcel; I am sorry it is so little I can do for them.

But I am glad and grateful because my Anny is very happy. When Harry has to go to the labo- ratory in the evening, of course she goes along and studies or reads. She reads German with delights, and now Russian gives her very keen pleasure. She calls it a real sympathische Sprache. But I talk all about my children; that is selfish. Do tell me about yours and about the grandchildren, particularly the youngest. Give my love to Olga, when you see her, perhaps in Kiel? In the last days?-

My Marshel, I wished we could be together, at least once a year. With love and with great love and best greetings to all the dear Ones. - Mathilde.

4.

Though they won't live in New York, but go to various university-cities there in blessed District, Harry can study & experiment in his chemical and engineering activities for "Kuzbas" (which means valley of blacksmiths), we shall meet often, and we shall feel, we are in the same country. The colony "Kuzbas" will leave a place open for Harry for two years; — he has been running the chemical plant quite for months now; he is very able!

Next week we have Shevuoth. May yours be a merry happy festival! I heard from Hanne about your beautiful seder-night, about the blessed children of Lotte, and I thank Berthel for the lovely picture of Albrecht Benno Strauss. How is Berthel? Did Meran help to strengthen her. Please, tell me! — I am glad about Hertha: she is fine. And Hanne is really going

New York, June 4th, 1924.
468 Riverside Drive

My dearest Martha,

Forgive me for letting you wait so long for an answer! Ruth was here, and she has filled my house, my time, my heart exclusively. And there were so many friends who visited us, naturally. Dr. & Mrs. Gutman met her, and like her, too; they recognize her worth and personality. These dear, kind people, clever and sweet, I shall miss; I could not bear the idea of their going, and I made a fool of myself, I am afraid, when they went — the last strong link to the friendly German connections.

I am fairly well, but not strong. To my joy H. kept well and strong during Ruth's stay of six weeks. — —

But if God closes a door, he opens a window: my Ruth writes to-day, that she and Harry will return in the Fall.

to Palestine in September. It is the right thing for her. Inspite of all our mother's rights, I have given up my daughters, too. Often my heart aches; tell Olga she shall be strong and brave. It is for Hanna's good!

I have sent the centre-piece, as you directed, to Tyler. Texas, and I hope Mrs. Birdie Goldstein will do well for your friends.

About the 20th of the month of June, Frank and I, and my new German companion, a splendid girl from Stuttgart, are going to Mrs. Hyams to Far Rockaway for the summer. Ida has taken a place here for the summer, and she is excited like myself about Amy's coming. Frank has finished his book on trade marks and Printers marks and the History of the Guilds. He greets you, like myself, in Liebe und Treue

Mathilde.

c/o Mrs. O. Hyams.
Wave Crest,
Far Rockaway L. I.
July 1st 1924.

My Dearest Marthel,

From the sea I send you my love-greetings to your mountain-heights, for the 20th July. Many happy returns of the Day that means so much happiness and good cheer for the blessed ones that love you! You will have Bertha and the little Benno with you and Lotte and her Babes? And the sons-in-law? I am anxiously awaiting your letter with the report about Bertha's perfect recovering and Lotte's robust health and her youngest Babe. Are the Strauss and the Pragers with you? We have a rainy summer. But every bit of sunshine finds me at my glorious beloved ocean. And when the waves come and go, and break on our beach, my heart-swells travel and break with emotion and feelings of love and friendship for my staunchest oldest, firmest comrade in joy and in sorrow.

My Marthel, a long life and a happy life for you! with the children and grand-children and great-grand-children! — I have had my Ruth here. Dr. and Mrs. Guttman have seen her and liked her. Was prächtige Menschen they are! The Marxes and Ludwig Vogelstein are in Germany, and I hope you will see them, and give them messages for me. Frank is <u>very</u> busy. He sends his wishes and his birthday-greetings. A. Marx and Frank have together revised and corrected Father's articles for a third volume of the series of Jewish Studies, and it will be fine; it will appear for the Jomtobim. On the 4th of July Frank will lecture in Saratoga before the bibliographical Society on "Printers Marks." I am well and so he is going with a free and joyous heart. I have a lovely, kind Fräulein from Stuttgart with me, who has been 10 years in a Jewish family as Erzieherin.

Fräulein Luise is a fine German of the old type. The Marsees will tell you about her. It is a long time since I heard from you. My best news are that Alexander has been re-elected as Member of Parliament. Ruth did not expect it, as in his honesty he had left his party who had not kept their word and acted badly against the Indians and the natives. So he had formed an Independent party. But Boers and English know an honest man, when they meet him. Thus to the world's surprise Smuts was defeated, and Alec was again elected. In September I hope to see Amy and her husband. They will come from Russia for about two years. Harry will work in

to ever Minnie.

the day-time and study in the evenings in various centres: universities and institutes where he can perfect his knowledge in engineering and chemistry. They leave his post open for two years in the important Chemical Plant in the American colony. Amy is proud of Harry, and I am glad that she is happy. Of course we hope to meet often, as much as their activities permit. Amy has made friends with many Germans, who have come to Russia, which seems to be the recognized future for chemists and engineers. Ruth will hope to come back here and meet Amy and Harry before they return to Russia. She will bring her oldest daughter with her, who is now 16 years and very beautiful according to her photographs. Good-bye

God bless you and keep you and all those who are dear to you, beloved sister Martha. x

End of Mathilde Schechter Collection